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'JFK' flap: Thirtysomething hot air

Charles Krauthammer can pat himself on the back for concluding that the movie *JFK* will not likely spur the young people of this nation on some revolution for the truth about the assassination. For most it will pass into sound bite heaven along with Madonna's latest video. But even though he can see the reality of our apathy, he has no understanding of its cause or depth.

Let me tell you about Generation X, of which I am a part. We are the forgotten generation, those twentysomethings who watch all that MTV. It is an understatement to say that we do not care about "saving democracy." A more accurate feeling is that we *don't give a f—!* Why? Because we never believed in this country in the first place.

Unlike our baby boomer parents and the thirtysomething generation, we were never innocent, never naive about who really calls the shots in this country or the world. We have been lied to since day one and we are used to it.

The first president that I, as a child, remember hearing about was Nixon. What were my virgin ears hearing? That the president broke the law and then lied about it. So began the first in a long line of dirty deals and coverups that have continually reinforced the idea that our government lies to us.

Who can really believe that the freeing of our hostages in Iran just happened to coincide with Reagan's inauguration? And then there was the arms-for-hostages scandal and coverup. And the CIA's secret little wars all over the Third World. And the S&L scandal, which is all but ignored because President Bush's son is in the middle of it. And the censorship of the war with Iraq. And the Clarence Thomas hearings. Need I go on? These are few examples of the dirt we have seen all of our lives.

My generation has *never* had a political figure to look up to. For that matter we have never had anyone to look up to outside of the pop culture. We come from broken families, divided communities and crime-infested cities.

No one reading this should assume our lack of patriotism equates us with communists, or fascists, or anything else. We are still American, but only in that we were born here. As U2 sings, "I'd join the movement if there was I one could believe in."

If there was a common movement among us it would be our attempts to save the earth. We know that at the same time you were killing the Kennedys and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, and being killed in Vietnam, you were also killing the dolphins and poisoning beavers, weren't you? So since we cannot bring back the people perhaps we can breathe some life back into this ailing planet.

So I hope that Mr. Krauthammer and the establishment will understand that, although they may win the editorial battle, the war was lost long ago. We are lost and we like it that way.

I do not doubt for a second that Kennedy's death was a conspiracy, but I am not going to do a damn thing about it. I do hope, however, that Oliver Stone and all of those people who cared for Kennedy and believed he could have made a difference will turn the tide of history and get those documents released soon. I hope they learn the truth in this decade, not 40 or 50 years from now. If they do not though, at least I will be alive when the truth finally does come out, and on that day I will drink a toast to JFK, the man and the movie. You and your generation will be dead. Rest in peace.

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